GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3098
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2017
World Economic Forum Report on Water
Shekhawat Shri Gajendra Singh

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the report published by the World Economic Forum on water;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
(c) whether shortage/inavailability of water has been estimated during the last three years; and
(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the water availability in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION

(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) to (d) Yes, Madam. The World Economic Forum in its Global Risk Report, 2017 has categorised Water Crisis as one of the global risks. The report indicates a significant decline in the available quality and quantity of fresh water, resulting in harmful effects on human health and/or economic activity.

As per the National Commission on Integrated Water Resources Development (NCIWRD) report, 1999 the total water availability of India received through precipitation is about 4000 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) per annum. After evaporation, 1869 BCM water is available as natural runoff. Due to geological and other factors, the utilizable water availability is limited to 1137 BCM per annum, comprising of 690 BCM of surface water and 447 BCM (as per latest assessment in the year 2013) of replenishable ground water.

In India, per capita water availability is reducing progressively due to increase in population. The average annual per capita water availability in India in the years 2001 and 2011 was assessed as 1820 cubic meters and 1545 cubic meters respectively. Annual per-capita water availability of less than 1700 cubic meters is considered as water stressed condition, whereas annual per- capita water availability below 1000 cubic meters is considered as a water scarcity condition. Due to high temporal and spatial variation of precipitation, the water availability of many regions of the country is much below the national average and can be considered as water stressed / water scarce.

Contd. P2/-

The National Water Policy (2012) formulated by Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR, inter-alia, advocates conservation, promotion and protection of water and highlights the need for augmenting the availability of water through various measures like rain water harvesting, direct use of rainfall etc. The National Water Policy (2012) has been forwarded to all State Governments/UTs and concerned Ministries/Departments of the Central Government for adoption.

Water being a State subject, State Governments undertake several measures for enhancing water availability, water conservation, improved water management etc. Central Government supplements the efforts of State Government by way of support (technical and financial) through various schemes/programmes and also by framing laws/rules/regulations/guidelines etc. in this regard.

CGWB has taken up Aquifer Mapping and Management programme (NAQUIM) during XII Plan, under the scheme of Ground Water Management and Regulation. The Aquifer Mapping is aimed to delineate aquifer disposition and their characterization for preparation of aquifer/area specific ground water management plans, with community participation. So far 6.31 lakh sq.km has been covered under NAQUIM in the entire country.

The Ministry of Rural Development in consultation and agreement with the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare has developed an actionable framework for Natural Resources Management (NRM), titled "Mission Water Conservation" to ensure gainful utilization of funds. The Framework strives to ensure synergies in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) and Command Area Development & Water Management (CAD&WM), given their common objectives. Types of common works undertaken under these programmes/schemes are water conservation and management, water harvesting, soil and moisture conservation, groundwater recharge, flood protection, land development, Command Area Development & Watershed Management.

Central Government has launched Jal Kranti Abhiyan (2015-18) on 5th June, 2015 in order to consolidate water conservation and management in the country through a holistic and integrated approach involving all stakeholders, making it a mass movement. The components of Jal Kranti Abhiyan include (i) Jal Gram Yojana (ii) Development of Model Command Area (iii) Mass Awareness Programme and (iv) Other Activities.

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